

10/683,725
Page 8
April 10, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 1 - 16 and 19 - 22 stand rejected for various reasons under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The Examiner has indicated claim 5 as allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 17 and 18 stand allowed. In view of the above amendment and the indications of allowability, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow the present application to issue.

With regard to the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, the informalities noted by the Examiner have been corrected by way of the present amendment.

With regard to the outstanding rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a), the features of claims 2 - 5 have now been directly incorporated into claim 1. All claims not dependent upon claim 1 or claim 17 have been canceled.

In view of the present amendment and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection of record and allow the present application to issue. No new matter is introduced. However, should there remain any open issues in this application which might be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at 320-363-7296 to further discuss the advancement of this application.

Sincerely,



Albert W. Watkins

reg. 31,676